

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, October 6. 1709.

Having given you an Account of a new Attempt in Scotland to introduce the English Liturgy there; I am now to go on to let you see, what the Proceedings have been against them there—that you may not be impos'd upon again, as you were before, in the Article of Persecution.

It is very happy for the good People of Scotland, that the Managers of this Liturgy-Plot—with all their Passion, have not one Grain of Discretion, no Prudence, no Policy—But they have made this Attempt with so much Want of Manners, Rudeness, Contempt of Authority, and trampling upon the Magistracy—that they suffer now as Breakers of the Laws of common

Order, Insulters of the Magistrates, and Contemners of the QUEEN, rather than Men that are struggling for the Liberty of their Consciences.—And this will take a great Deal from the Glory of Martyrdom, which they are in so much Hopes of obtaining.

In the next Place it is worth observing, That the Party have been guilty of notorious Falsity and Forgery, in forming a Story even upon the Sovereign, *Mr.* Reporting about, that her Majesty would protect them, and that they were encourag'd and supported—by the Government.—This was calculated to foment Jealousies among the People, to make the QUEEN be suspected by her Subjects, and fill them with Fears

Fears for the Safety of their Religious Liberties — Whereas her Majesty has repeated her Royal Assurances to her Subjects of *Scotland*, and they cannot be deceiv'd in them, that no Invasions, Intrusions, or Innovations upon the Churches, the Manses, the Worship, or other Essentials of the Church, shall receive any Protection or Encouragement from her.

After these Things, and after the firm Bounds fix'd by the Union, between the Church of *England* and the Church of *Scotland* in *Britain*, by which either are secur'd from invading or insulting one another, no Man can wonder at the Inhabitants of *Edinburgh* addressing their suprem Church-Judicatory, THE ASSEMBLY, to put the Laws for their Safety in Execution—in Pursuance of which Address, all the subsequent Prosecution has hap-pen'd — And the Copy of which is as follows.

Unto the very reverend and Honourable the Commission of the late General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

WE the Neighbourhood of the Town of *Edinburgh* and Suburbs under-scrib'd, do most humbly represent,

THAT notwithstanding the many good Laws and Acts of Parliament, and particularly the Act 6 and 7 Parliaments, 1707. made for the Settlement and Security of this National Church, and against all Encroachments upon her Rights and Privileges, or Innovations in her Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, or Government; And of her Majesty's repeated Assurances in her Royal Proclamations, Letters to her Privy-Council, and the General Assemblies of this Church, to maintain and defend the same in its present Establishments against all such unlawful Intrusions, Encroachments, and Innovations, particularly her Majesty's Proclamation against unlawful Intruders into Churches and Manses in *Scotland*, dated Septemb 20. 1708. Yet to our very great Surprize, several of the Episcopal Clergy (prompted and instigate thereunto by the Fa-

“*ce Party, who are eqnally disaffected to the Civil as to our Ecclesiastick Constitution*) have of late not only erected Meeting-houses in this City, after the *Scots Episcopal Way*, but also in several Places here have set up the *English Service*, which as it is contrair to our Establishment, and very grievous and offensive to us and all others, who are well affected to her Majesty and the present Establishment, so it will be of fatal and dangerous Consequence to this Church, if not speedily remedy'd.

It would be consider'd in the first Place, That several of such as preach in these Meeting houses are known to be, not only unsound in their Judgments, but also scandalous and immoral in their Lives and Practises; And however they may pretend to be qualify'd according to Law, yet if they were not secretes, and Heart-Enemies to her Majesty and the present Government, they would never yield themselves Tools to a *Jacobite Party*, for carrying on of their wicked and pernicious Designes.

Secondly, They cannot pretend it to be Matter of Conscience, in setting up of the *English Service* here, for abstracting from *Presbyterians*, even the Body and Bulk of the *Episcopal Perswasion in Scotland* have never been fond of the *English Way of Worship*; but upon many Occasions have testify'd their Dislike of the same, and none of them scruple to joyn in Communion with this Church, but such as are either openly profane, and will not subje^t to Church-Discipline, or avow'd *Jacobites*. And therefore,

Thirdly, We conceive, That by these illegal and unwarrantable Encroachments, Intrusions, and Innovations, they design no less than the Ruin of both Church and State; for as the setting up of the *English Service* here did in former Times breed much Trouble and Confusion in this Church and Nation, so at present it does raise and foment Jealousies and Heart-Burnings in the Minds of People, otherwise zealous affected to her Majesty's Person and Government, and exceedingly widens the Breach be-
“*twixt*

“ twixt us and the separating Parties on
“ both hands: And the Instigators to and
“ Abettors of these Practices are in big
“ Hopes, and not without too good and
“ evident Grounds that this will prove,
“ ane equal Means of alienating the
“ Hearts and Affections of many of our
“ QUEEN’s best and most Loyal Subjects,
“ from her Majesky’s Person, and the pre-
“ sent Establishment, and that by that
“ means they shall effectually wound and
“ weaken the Church on both sides, and
“ also ruin the Civil Government.

" We must also humbly represent, That
" albeit we have many good and laudable
" Laws and Acts of Parliament against
" Popery and Papists, their trafficking
" and practising in *Scotland*, particularly
" against their Teaching of any Science,
" Art, and Exercise within the same, and
" against all Inteligion and Blasphemies;
" yet Papists do openly and avowedly
" teach and practise, even within the
" City of *Edinburgh* and Suburbs. And
" now also a profane and deluded Crew
" of Enthusiasts are set up in this Place,
" who, under Pretence to the Spirit of
" Prophecy, do utter most horrid Blas-
" phemies against the ever Glorious Tri-
" nity, such as ought not to be suffer'd in
" any Christian Church or Nation, seeing
" this strikes at the very Root and Vital
" of all Religion; and is set on, Foot of
" Satan to confound (if possible) all solid
" Thoughts of a Deity amongst us.

" We have for Brevity's Sake represented but a few of the many Inconveniencies that will certainly follow the Suffering of such Practices, and do judge it our Duty in all Humility, to lay them before the Reverend Commission, seeing you are set by the Church of Scotland upon the Watch-Tower, to advert, that the Interest of Jesus-Christ, and the present Establishment of this Church, do not suffer or sustain any Prejudice which you can prevent, particularly to take special Care to keep and maintain Unity in the Church upon all Emergents; And to see to the due Execution of the Acts of Assemblies, which are very plain and express against

such Innovations in the Worship of God,
particularly the Act 15 Gen. Assembly,
1707: And therefore humbly and ear-
nestly beg and entreat, That as you
tender the Glory of God, the Peace and
Unity of this Church, and the Quiet and
Safety of her Majesty's Government;
you would use your utmost Endeavours
for suppressing and crushing such intol-
erable and pernicious Practices and
Desigus in the Bud —

And your supplicants shall ever pray, &c.

The Inhabitants of Paddington sign'd an Address to the same Purpose—and presented it to the Commission also, but the Tenour being the same, I omit copying it in this Paper, being willing to trouble the World with no more than is absolutely needful to let the Reader into the true Account of the Affair.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Londini, apud J. Robinson, J. Lawrence,
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ticas, Londinentes.

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SIR WILLIAM READ, Her Majesty's OCCULIST, being very sensible, that many of Her Majesty's Soldiers must have receiv'd Damage in their Eyes, or Vitive Faculty, in the late bloody and unparallel'd Battle, thought fit to give publick Notice, for the Benefit of all such Persons, that HE will constantly attend at his House in Durham-Yard in the Strand—Where all such Persons, bringing Certificates from their respective Officers, shall be kindly receiv'd, and all due Care taken in order to their speedy Cure *Gratis*; As has been his constant Practice, ever since the Beginning of the W A R.

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